

PATENT
Reply under 37 CFR 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
Group 2862

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending; claim 4 is withdrawn from consideration; claims 5-17 are allowed and claims 1-3 are rejected. Claims 1-3 are cancelled hereby.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,810,965 (Fujiwara et al.), Applicant has cancelled claims 1 and 2.

Responsive to the rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujiwara et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,018,241 (White et al.), Applicant has cancelled claim 3.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 5-17 are allowed, for which the Examiner is thanked by the Applicant.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

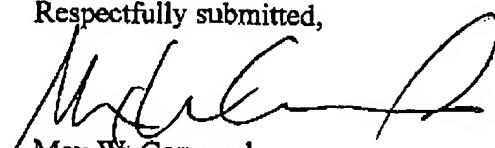
In the event Applicant has overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicant hereby conditionally petitions therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

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Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,


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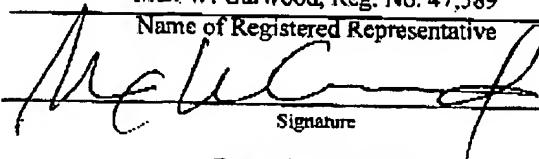
Attorney for Applicant

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on: December 30, 2003.

Max W. Garwood, Reg. No. 47,589

Name of Registered Representative


Signature

December 30, 2003

Date

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